



Legislation Text

File #: 210163., **Version:** 10

Redistricting the City's Election Districts Based upon 2020 Census Data (B)

Ordinance No. 210163

An ordinance of the City of Gainesville, Florida, amending Section 9-1.1 Election districts of the Code of Ordinances by redistricting the City of Gainesville into four ratably or equally proportioned election districts as required by law; making findings; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an immediate effective date.

Section 2.02 of the Charter Laws of the City of Gainesville requires the City Commission to apportion the City into four consecutively numbered districts and to adjust the boundary lines of the districts by subsequently enacted ordinances whenever, in its judgment, the districts are not ratably or equally apportioned in accordance with the State Constitution and the Constitution of the United States, but not less frequently than within the second year following each decennial census. The City Commission previously redistricted the City by adoption of an ordinance in December 2012 using data from the 2010 Census.

On October 21, 2021, the City adopted Resolution No. 210163, which set forth the City Commission's intent to redistrict the City's election districts according to certain criteria. The City has contracted with Dr. Michael McDonald and Dr. Daniel Smith, both Political Science Professors and redistricting experts at the University of Florida and acting under U.F. BEBR to analyze the data, and provide redistricting options. Neighbors have been given an opportunity to participate in the process by submitting their own maps to the consultants and the City.

Historically, the City defines its districts by grouping contiguous voting precincts as codified in section 9-1.1 of the City Code of Ordinances. Adherence to precinct lines in redistricting minimizes split precincts and the complexity that results from split precincts. Additionally, adherence to precinct lines is significant in this redistricting effort due to the lack of time to explore redistricting based upon surveyed metes and bounds or census block methodology.

New City election districts must be established before the upcoming 2022 election, because the Supervisor of Elections is drawing new precinct boundaries which will alter and potentially remove or add some City precincts. Therefore, it will not be possible to conduct the upcoming 2022 election based upon existing City Commission districts that are defined by the 2012 precincts set forth in section 9-1.1.

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners must adopt the precincts subject to the recommendation and approval by the Supervisor of Elections. After the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners adopts the precincts, the City Commission can establish City election districts by ordinance. A draft ordinance is included in the backup.

UPDATE: On April 26, 2022, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Supervisor of Elections' recommended and approved precincts. The General Policy Committee, at its meeting of April 28,

2022, voted to amend the proposed draft ordinance to split Precinct 25 by placing the portion of Precinct 25 located north of the center line of NW 8th Avenue into the proposed District 4. The City Attorney's Office has revised the draft ordinance to reflect the amendment.

The City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance.

The fee for U.F. BEBR is estimated to be \$50,000 or less.